

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 04508 01 OF 02 101733Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13  
ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00  
/080 W

-----074894 101802Z /45

O 101708Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7742  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 04508

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GE  
SUBJECT: NICO HUEBNER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS

REFS: BERLIN 4408; USBER 1526; USBER 1256; BERLIN A-18;  
BERLIN 2492; BERLIN 2413; USBER 0730

### SUMMARY

1. ONE WEEK AFTER THE SENTENCING OF DISSIDENT EAST  
GERMAN ECONOMIST RUDOLF BEHRO (BERLIN 4408), GDR  
AUTHORITIES HAVE NOW DEALT WITH THE CASE OF EAST BERLIN  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 04508 01 OF 02 101733Z

DRAFT RESISTER NICO HUEBNER. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF  
8/9 JULY CONTAINS A LENGTHY REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE  
HUEBNER CASE, WHICH WAS ALSO CARRIED ON EAST GERMAN  
TELEVISION AND RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS JULY 7. HUEBNER WAS  
SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR HIS REFUSAL TO  
BE INDUCTED INTO THE VOLKSARMEE (PARA 32 OF THE MILITARY  
CODE) AND FOR DEFAMING THE STATE AND ENGAGING IN OTHER

ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES (PARAS 98 AND 106 OF THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CODE). CONTRARY TO SOME WESTERN SPECULATION (USBER 1256), THE GDR DID NOT IGNORE THE DRAFT RESISTANCE OFFENSE IN ORDER TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH THE WESTERN ALLIES ON THE QUESTION OF THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF BERLIN.  
END SUMMARY

2. THE NO REPORT ON HUEBNER'S CASE IS UNUSUALLY LONG FOR TREATMENT OF SUCH AN EVENT IN THE GDR PRESS. MUCH OF THE REPORT IS, HOWEVER, HIGHLY REPETITIVE IN ITS DENUNCIATION OF THE WEST BERLIN-BASED COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUEBNER'S ALLEGED CONNECTIONS WITH IT. HUEBNER WAS CONVICTED OF ENGAGING IN "ANTI-STATE PROVOCATIONS" ON BEHALF OF THE "INTELLIGENCE AGENCY-FUNDED COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS". HE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE RESISTED MILITARY INDUCTION ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND TO HAVE SUPPLIED IT WITH INFORMATION ON HIS ACTION IN ORDER THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD ENGAGE IN "SLANDEROUS ATTACKS AGAINST THE GDR." THE COMMITTEE IS DENOUNCED AS HAVING BEEN CREATED BY "IMPERIALIST SECRET SERVICES" AND OF WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH "ENEMY ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS WITH THE MASS MEDIA IN THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN" IN ORDER TO UNDERTAKE "MASSIVE INTERVENTIONS IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR AND OF ORGANIZING BROADLY-BASED HATE AND SLANDER CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE GDR." SINGLED OUT FOR CONDEMNATION BY NAME IS ONE WOLFGANG MLECZKOWSKI, IDENTIFIED AS THE DIRECTOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 04508 01 OF 02 101733Z

THE WEST BERLIN OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE.

3. THE CHARACTER AND CONTENT OF THIS REPORT IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT HUEBNER WAS MERELY THE TOOL (ALBEIT WILLING) OF A WESTERN AGENCY WHOSE ROLE IS TO ATTACK AND DEFAME THE GDR. NO COMMENT IS MADE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF HUEBNER'S CRITICISMS OF THE GDR AS PUBLISHED IN THE WEST (BERLIN 2413 AND A-18) NOR IS ANY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR REFUTATION MADE CONCERNING HUEBNER'S CLAIM TO EXEMPTION FROM EAST GERMAN MILITARY SERVICE BASED ON THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF BERLIN. THE IMPLICATION OF THE REPORT IS THAT THE TRUE VILLAIN IS THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS SUPPORTERS AND THAT HUEBNER HIMSELF IS ONLY A MINOR COG IN THE ANTI-GDR CAMPAIGN.

4. FOR THE RECORD, WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH SEVERAL EAST GERMANS WHO KNOW HUEBNER PERSONALLY, INCLUDING SEVERAL WHO WERE AWARE OF HIS INTENTION TO PROVOKE HIS OWN ARREST BEFORE HE REFUSED INDUCTION. THE CONSENSUS VIEW OF THESE CONTACTS IS THAT HUEBNER ACTED OUT OF STRONGLY HELD PERSONAL VIEWS CONCERNING THE CORRUPTION AND DENIGRATION OF SOCIALISM AS PRACTICED IN THE GDR AND THAT HIS INTENT

WAS TO PLACE HIMSELF IN A POSITION IN WHICH HE COULD BE  
RANSOMED OUT OF PRISON AND THE GDR AFTER A SHORT PERIOD  
BY THE FRG.

5. COMMENT. WE WOULD SUGGEST FOUR POSSIBLE REASONS FOR  
THE TIMING OF HUEBNER SENTENCING SO CLOSE TO THAT OF BAHRO.  
FIRST, DEALING WITH THE TWO CASES ESSENTIALLY  
SIMULTANEOUSLY COULD TEND TO CONCENTRATE WESTERN PROTEST  
INTO ONE PERIOD RATHER THAN FACING THE GDR WITH TWO DISTINCT  
EPISODES OF BAD PRESS IN THE WEST. SECOND, THE GREATER

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 04508 02 OF 02 101737Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 04508

PUBLIC AND PRESS ATTENTION IN THE WEST AT THIS TIME TO THE  
TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT TEND TO OVER-  
SHADOW THE HUEBNER-BAHRO CASES IN THE GDR. THIRD, THE GDR  
MAY HAVE JUDGED THAT THE RECENTLY RENEWED INNER GERMAN  
DISCUSSIONS ARE NOW SUFFICIENTLY FIRMLY ON TRACK SO  
AS NOT TO BE DEFLECTED BY THESE TWO CASES. FOURTH, SEN-  
TENCING BAHRO AND HUEBNER TOGETHER WOULD HAVE A REINFORCING

EFFECT DOMESTICALLY AND SERVE AS A CLEAR WARNING TO LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS IN THE GDR THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO PERMISSABLE DISSENT, ESPECIALLY IF IT TAKES THE FORM OF DOCUMENTS PRINTED IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS. WE WOULD  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 04508 02 OF 02 101737Z

ALSO NOTE THAT THE GDR MAY BE DEMONSTRATING TO THE SOVIETS THAT IT TAKES PARTY AND IDEOLOGICAL LOYALTY SERIOUSLY AND IS WILLING TO PUNISH THOSE WHO SHOW DEVIATIONIST TENDENCIES. THIS MAY BE PARTICULARLY THE CASE IN THE SENTENCING OF BAHRO, WHOSE BOOK WAS A FUNDAMENTAL ATTACK ON SOCIALISM AS PRACTICED IN THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE.

6. THE TIMING OF HUEBNER'S SENTENCING SO CLOSE TO THAT OF BAHRO INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEIR FATE WILL ARISE IN THE QUESTIONING IN THE TOWN MEETING DURING THE PRESIDENT'S BERLIN VISIT. BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, GC, (HUEBNER, NICO)  
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